

us never forget that only justice and democratic governance will lead to a stable and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 6525, THE
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVIC
ACHIEVEMENT ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, last week I introduced the American History and Civic Achievement Act to renew our national commitment to teaching history and civics in America's schools. This legislation is a companion to S. 1414, a bill authored by Senators KENNEDY and ALEXANDER, and it will help ensure that our schools maintain their important civic role in creating the next generation of engaged and informed citizens.

Social studies education is a vital mission of our public schools. With our rapidly changing world and all the challenges we must face as an international community, it is more important than ever that children grasp basic concepts about history, civics, geography and economics. These core disciplines help students understand the world today and give them the ability to think about possibilities for making things better tomorrow.

It is alarming that studies indicate that too many students do not know history and geography or understand basic facts about government and economics. According to the most recent National Assessment of Education Programs (NAEP) for U.S. History and Civics, nearly 75 percent of eighth graders cannot explain the historical importance of the Declaration of Independence. Even more eighth graders do not know why America was involved in the Korean War or how the fall of the Berlin Wall affected U.S. foreign policy.

These trends threaten the future vitality of our democracy. While we are making some progress thanks to the hard work of many history and civics teachers in classrooms across America, we must do more. Additionally, underfunding is prompting many school districts to cut resources for social studies instruction.

H.R. 6525 takes important steps to improve social studies education by making changes to the National Assessment of Education Programs (NAEP). This continuing assessment, also known as "The Nation's Report Card," can currently evaluate social studies subjects—but only "to the extent time and resources allow." While social studies testing is on the NAEP schedule, it has recently been targeted for elimination due to funding challenges. My legislation protects this important study in several ways: Requires a national assessment of students in American history under the NAEP at least every four years; creates new 10-state pilots to assess history and civics under NAEP to provide quality information and comparable results across states for educators; provides funding to ensure a quality assessment.

This legislation will allow more effective analysis of social studies in classrooms across America. The future of our democracy relies on having well-educated, highly skilled citizens with the ability to think critically, which is why

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

IN HONOR OF ANNETTE MORMAN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Annette Morman, a member of the Georgia Municipal Association, the Mitchell County Hospital Authority, and a citizen of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, which I am privileged to represent.

Annette Morman is a native of Baconton, Georgia. She attended Dent-Reynolds Elementary School and graduated from Camilla Consolidated High School in 1966. She then furthered her education by attending both the Albany Technical College and Albany State University.

Ms. Morman is a very dedicated woman in many aspects of her life. She helps the children of her community through her job as a caseworker for the Mitchell County Department of Family and Children Services. For 34 years, she has guaranteed children in the area are protected and receive proper care. She truly epitomizes the motto, "no child left behind."

In addition to her service to children throughout the county, Ms. Morman leads her community through civic involvement. She has served on the Baconton City Council for 14 years in the same seat that her father, James E. Morman, once held. While on the council, she has served on the Recreation Committee, Budget Committee, and Chaired the Grand Opening Dedication of the Jackson Davis House.

Ms. Morman also serves on the Workforce Investment Board, the Mitchell County Democratic Executive Committee, and the Mitchell County School Board Facility Committee. Ms. Morman is also a devoted member of St. James Missionary Baptist Church, where she has served in numerous capacities.

Ms. Morman is the loving mother of two children: Olivia Dionne Morman and Dexter Dwayne Morman and the proud grandmother of five grandchildren.

Madam Speaker I am so pleased to honor this great woman who not only exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated activist for children, the community, and the church, but also epitomizes everything great about the United States of America.

HONORING VINE VILLAGE OF
NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vine Village of Napa County on the occasion of their 35th anniversary. Vine Village has done visionary work to provide people with developmental disabilities a comfortable place to call their home.

Thirty-five years ago, Grace Kerson, George Kerson and Dante Bagnani looked around at

the options they had for their developmentally disabled children: virtual isolation in an independent living situation, or institutionalization. They concluded that there had to be a better way; that people with developmental disabilities could have a comfortable home that allowed them social interaction and the same quality of life as their non-handicapped peers while still meeting their care needs.

The fruit of their ingenuity and compassion is Vine Village in Napa, California. Today at Vine Village, 19 developmentally disabled adults live full-time on a beautiful 25 acre ranch in the Cameros region amongst the animals and vineyards. They also maintain a day arts and recreation program that can be attended by any developmentally disabled person in the community.

The Kerson family remains the main benefactors of Vine Village. Grace and George's son, Michael and his wife, Nancy have directed Vine Village since 1973, and their daughter, Saanen, joined the staff in 2007. Debbie Kerson remains a resident.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank the Kerson family and everyone at Vine Village for the remarkable work they have done for our community. Only through the hard work and generous contributions of countless members of our community has this program thrived for the past 35 years, and I know that we will see much more progress in the years to come.

HONORING NEAL THOMAS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Neal Thomas of Blue Springs, Missouri. Neal is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1696, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Neal has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Neal has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Neal Thomas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE FBI ON ITS 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the 100th anniversary commemoration event for the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 17 at the National Building Museum.

I insert for the record the remarks of Robert S. Mueller III, who was appointed the sixth director of the Bureau just one week before the

terrorist attacks on America of September 11, 2001, and salute Director Mueller and the thousands of FBI employees and leaders over the years for their dedication and bravery in protecting their country and their fellow citizens.

100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION, NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM, WASHINGTON, DC, JULY 17, 2008

(By Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation)

Good morning. It is truly an honor to be here today to mark this significant milestone in the Bureau's history and to share in the celebration of this occasion—the 100th anniversary of the FBI.

My thanks to Attorney General Mukasey and the many other distinguished guests for joining us today.

My special thanks, also, to Directors Webster, Sessions, and Freeh, for being here. Together, they represent three decades at the Bureau in which we saw a strong emphasis on white collar crime and organized crime, as well as counterintelligence cases. We witnessed innovations in crime-solving technologies and a dramatic expansion of our international program.

But let's go back a bit further in history.

One hundred years ago, Attorney General Charles Joseph Bonaparte organized a group of investigators under the Justice Department. In July, 1908, the Bureau of Investigation opened its doors.

The first Bureau employees numbered just 34—nine detectives, thirteen civil rights investigators, and twelve accountants. They investigated, among other things, antitrust matters, land fraud, and copyright violations.

Compare that to today's FBI—a threat-based, intelligence-driven, technologically supported agency of over 30,000 employees—employees who are working in 56 field offices and 61 offices overseas. Employees who are combatting crimes as diverse as terrorism, corporate fraud, cyber crime, human trafficking, and money laundering. J. Edgar Hoover would have been proud.

Today's FBI is often, and I believe accurately, described as one of the world's few intelligence and law enforcement agencies combined.

The culture of the FBI is now, and for the past 100 years has been, a culture of hard work and dedication to protecting the United States, no matter what the challenges.

In the wake of the September 11 attacks, it became clear that the FBI's number one priority must be the prevention of another terrorist attack. We refocused our mission, revised our priorities, and realigned our work force. We strengthened lines of communication between the Bureau and our partners in the global intelligence and law enforcement community. And we are now stronger and better equipped to confront the threats we face today.

Today's FBI continues to reflect and embody its motto—Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity. It is a motto emblazoned on the FBI Seal. And it is worth its weight in gold.

For the past 100 years, the men and women of the FBI have lived out their commitment to Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity. It is precisely because they have done so that the Bureau has the reputation that it enjoys today.

Even so, these are qualities that need to be constantly burnished by the men and women of the Bureau, to ensure they do not rust for lack of use.

For most of us, fidelity is faithfulness to an obligation, trust, or duty.

For the men and women of the FBI, fidelity also means fidelity to country. It means fidelity to justice and the law, fidelity to the Constitution, fidelity to equality and liberty.

Bravery is the quality of being willing to face danger, pain, or trouble; to remain unafraid. Bravery is not merely the act of rushing in where others flee. It is the quiet, diligent dedication to facing down those who would do us harm and bring them to justice.

The well-known tennis champion and social humanitarian, Arthur Ashe, once said, "True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

Bravery is the capstone in the stories of Special Agents Rodney Miller, John O'Neill, and Lenny Hatton. On September 11, Miller and O'Neill went up, not down, the stairs of the North Tower of the World Trade Center to help others get out. Rodney Miller went all the way up to the 86th floor, offering assistance to fire and police personnel on the scene. Through radio transmissions, Lenny Hatton reported the crash of the second plane, and then assisted with evacuation efforts. Neither he nor John O'Neill survived.

And we will never know how many lives were saved as a result of their and the other first responders' extraordinary bravery on that day.

Although their stories are unique, their bravery is repeated by the men and women of the FBI working each and every day around the country, and around the world.

Whether cracking down on public corruption or white collar crime that corrodes the public trust. Or capturing criminals who exploit children on the Internet, or commit violent crime, hate crime, organized crime, espionage, or terrorism.

Such bravery can be seen in the story of Jay Tabb, a member of our Hostage Rescue Team. Tabb received the FBI Star after being shot and seriously wounded during the arrest of a wanted fugitive. Just months later, during a search of a terrorist safe-house in Afghanistan, he was injured again by a suicide bomber. Despite his own injuries, he rescued four wounded soldiers. After each incident his first question was, how soon can I get back to work with my team?

Bravery can be seen in the story of Port Authority Police Detective Tom McHale, who has served on our Newark Joint Terrorism Task Force since 1995. The morning of September 11, McHale was blocks from the World Trade Center when he heard the first plane fly overhead. He raced to the scene to assist with evacuations and rescues. He was caught in both building collapses and injured. And yet as a trained ironworker, McHale spent the next weeks in the rubble cutting through steel and recovering bodies. He worked at Ground Zero for 12 hours a day, before reporting for duty on the Joint Terrorism Task Force to help with thousands of leads.

Bravery can be seen in the work of Jennifer Keenan, the first female Special Agent to be stationed in Pakistan and Yemen, and who helped carry out dangerous missions in both of those countries. Along with Tom McHale, Keenan was part of the FBI team in Pakistan who captured Al Qaeda suspect Abu Zubaidah.

Bravery can be seen in the story of Special Agent Bruce Bennett and three other agents, who were seriously wounded just last March in a terrorist bombing, also in Pakistan.

And it can be seen in the story of Walter Walsh, our oldest living Special Agent, who

survived shootouts with gangsters in the 1930s.

And it so happens that each of these individuals is with us today. Would you all please stand so we can recognize you?

And yet there is no shortage of heroes in the FBI. I am certain there are also many unsung heroes with us in the audience today—heroes whose stories may never be told. We honor them as well.

For the men and women of the FBI, bravery is reflected not only in the physical courage often necessary in the job. It can be seen in the courage of conviction, in the courage to act with wisdom in the face of fear, and in the courage it takes to admit mistakes and move forward.

This brings us to the third quality that defines the Bureau, and that is integrity. It is the quality of being of sound moral principle; uprightness, honesty, and sincerity.

For the men and women of the FBI, integrity is reflected in all that we say and we do—in honesty, in keeping promises, in fairness, in respect for others, and in compassion.

Integrity is, in some ways, the most important of the three words that make up our motto. Integrity is the fire by which fidelity and bravery are tested.

Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity set the expectations for behavior; they set a standard for our work. More than just a motto, for the men and women of the FBI, Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity is a way of life.

And it has always been a way of life. It has been said of FBI employees that they stand on the shoulders of their predecessors. Indeed, we do.

And while it is a time of change in the FBI, our values will never change.

It is not enough to stop the terrorist—we must stop him while maintaining his civil liberties.

It is not enough to catch the criminal—we must catch him while respecting his civil rights.

It is not enough to prevent foreign countries from stealing our secrets—we must prevent that from happening while still upholding the rule of law.

The rule of law, civil liberties, and civil rights—these are not our burdens. They are what make us better. And they are what have made us better for the past 100 years.

The men and women of the FBI today are part of history in the making. We understand that we have been passed a legacy and that it remains our responsibility to both build on and to pass on that legacy to those who will succeed us.

John F. Kennedy once said, "... when at some future date the high court of history sits in judgment on each of us ... our success or failure, in whatever office we hold, will be measured by the answers to four questions: First, were we truly men of courage? Second, were we truly men of judgment? Third, were we truly men of integrity? Finally, were we truly men of dedication?"

The men and women of the FBI, here and around the world, past and present, can resoundingly answer yes to each of these questions. That is because they live our motto each and every day.

Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity remain the attributes of an organization with a proud history of distinguished service to the nation. And each of us is indeed honored to be part of that.

With Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity defining every FBI employee, we stand fully ready to face the challenges of the next century.

Thank you all again for being here with us today and God bless.